

In the Beginning: God
Community Group Discussion for Week 4

The Faithfulness of Abraham...
and the Faithfulness of God

1. In the story, Abraham is asked, simply, to go forth from his country and into the land God would show him. Not much detail, a whole lot that could go wrong. Have you ever had a similar experience? Where through prayer, or the encouragement of others, or even a sense that God was simply “leading,” you knew you needed to do something scary?
2. Have you ever had that sense that you were supposed to respond to a calling and you didn’t? Why or why not?
3. Take a minute or two in silence and reflect & write down below the top one or two times when life “threw you a curveball.” When you expected things to go one direction, but unforeseen circumstances or choices led to a difficult situation.

If you are comfortable, share your experiences with the group. How did you respond?

Looking back (or thinking currently if you are dealing with your “curveball” now), how can you see God’s faithfulness in the midst of it? Where was or is He working? What positive changes resulted that wouldn’t have resulted had things gone according to plan?

4. Check out the following quote from John Walton, professor at Moody Bible Institute.

“It is common today to study Abraham, Moses, or David as models of spirituality. We analyze in great depth the Bible’s biographical information and its accounts of their activities looking for clues to a successful relationship with God. Often there is at least a tacit assumption that the Old Testament exists to provide exactly that sort of information. Therein lies the fallacy. Whatever the nature of the relationship to God that these individuals enjoyed, their stories are not recorded to offer models of what our relationship to God should or should not be. Rather, the Old Testament accounts seek to reveal what God is like so we may enter into relationship with him. Knowing

Abraham, Moses, or David does not provide the key to a successful relationship with God—knowing God provides the key to a successful relationship with God.”

What are the top one or two stories that come to mind when you think about the Old Testament? What do they say about the faithfulness of God?

5. The Bible speaks of God’s faithfulness as much or more than any other topic. Indeed, it could be said that the plot of the great story is, ultimately the faithfulness of God. Have each member of the group look up and read one of the following passages. If it’s appropriate, the reader may reflect for a few seconds on what each says about the faithfulness of God. When you’re finished, Take some time to close in prayer.

Psalm 100:4-5

Jeremiah 32:17

Psalm 86:15

Romans 3:3-4

Hebrews 10:23

Malachi 3:6

1 John 5:14-15

Psalm 136:1-9

1 Thessalonians 5:24